

Amendments to the Drawings

Formal Figures 1-5 are being submitted herewith to overcome the drawing objections.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the application. Claim 7 has been amended. Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendment to Claim 7 prior to further examination. No new matter is being introduced.

Regarding Drawing Objections

No new matter is being introduced. Applicants herewith submit formal figures (1-5) to overcome the objections to the drawings. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the drawing objections.

Regarding Claim Objection

Claim 7 has been objected to because of an informality. In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, Claim 7 has now been amended by replacing "object of patterns " with "object comprising of patterns." No new matter has been introduced by the claim amendment. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the claim objection.

Regarding Section 103 Rejection

Claims 1-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Helot et al. (U.S. Patent 6,504,945; hereinafter "Helot") in view of Butler (U.S. Patent 4,357,597).

The present invention provides a device to register a biometric object in a guide 15 so that multiple surface patterns on the object can be viewed while the object is in a non-distorted state. The guide 15 for aligning the object can include multiple windows 70 on each of multiple rails 30 for viewing different regions of the object. Typically, the guide 15 can be reused so that similar surface patterns for recognizing the object appear in the windows 70 each time the guide 15 is used to register the object for viewing corresponding surface patterns. Consequently, the guide 15 can be used to more accurately identify an object such as a person's hand, based on a recognized surface pattern. For example, the guide 15 is adjustable to register different-sized but similarly shaped objects. Thus, a single adjustable guide 15 can be reused to register each of

multiple objects that fall into a particular class. That is, the guide 15 can be formed to register different-sized objects such as hands and fingers. Referring to Fig. 1, five base finger tracks 20 and corresponding slidable finger rails 30 are provided so that fingers of a hand are properly registered for viewing. Each finger rail 30 includes a finger window 70 for viewing fingerprints or biometric surface patterns. Accordingly, five fingers and a palm can be scanned simultaneously in their natural non-distorted state using the registration guide 15. (*See* Specification, p. 1, line 19 - p. 2, line 15; p. 7, lines 5 - 13).

Helot provides a system for imaging a fingerprint. This system includes providing a sliding finger guide 10 that is restricted from following its established slide path, unless there is an applied force in the direction generally perpendicular to the slide path. The finger guide 10 includes a finger-support region 26 with an opening 28 configured to expose a finger to an imaging device having a field of view that defines an interrogation region. A mechanism for restricting displacement of the finger guide 10 is arranged to require pressure on opposite sides of the finger guide 10, with the opposite sides being aligned with the slide path. This alignment is intended to promote proper finger placement, since it requires finger contact at both the forward and rearward sides of the finger-supporting region. As shown in Figs. 1-5, Helot's housing has at least three sides that support and cooperatively allow the finger guide to operate properly. Helot does not disclose multiple rails for viewing multiple surface regions of a biometric object nor does Helot disclose a base having a window for viewing a surface pattern of the biometric object. (*See* Helot, Figs. 1-5; Col. 2, Line 57 - Col 3, Line 3; and Col. 5 Lines 62 - 64).

Butler provides a palm-positioning and system-actuating mechanism for properly positioning a person's palm in the palm-positioning area of an electronics module of an identification system. A palm-positioning area 12 is located in the upper surface of a unit 10 and it includes a metal plate 14 mounted in this upper surface. An inclined surface 16 has an opening 18 over which a person's palm is positioned. A thumb and forefinger-engaging member 20 is mounted to a switch-actuating member 22 by a pivot 24. A pin 26 is secured to the forefinger-engaging member 20 and extends through an arcuate slot 28 in a plate 14. The pin 26 is also secured to a switch-actuating member 22 and the arcuate slot 28 enables the thumb and the forefinger-engaging member 20 to turn about 30° to accommodate various hand sizes. Another

pin 46/62 extends through an arcuate slot 50 in the plate 14. The combination of the pins 26 and 46/62 allow a hand to be positioned on the device. Butler does not disclose multiple rails for viewing multiple surface regions of a biometric object. (See Butler, Figs. 1-3; Col. 3, Lines 25 - 28; Col. 2, Lines 23 - 38; and Col. 2, Lines 51-52).

Neither Helot or Butler, alone or in combination, teach, suggest, or otherwise make obvious “a base to which each of the multiple rails is movably attached, the base including at least one window for viewing a surface pattern on the object” as claimed in Claim 1 of the present invention.

The Examiner actually concedes that Helot does not expressly disclose (1) multiple rails for viewing multiple surface regions of the biometric object and (2) a base to which each of the multiple rails is movably attached, the base including least one window for viewing a surface pattern on the object. The Examiner makes a “general conclusion” that one of ordinary skill in the art would have found these limitations 1 and 2 obvious. However, the Examiner does not provide specific factual findings along with some concrete evidence in the record to support these findings. Therefore, the Examiner’s “general conclusion” does not support an obvious rejection. (See MPEP 2144.03). However, Helot would not contemplate multiple rails because the design would not function with multiple rails because Helot’s single rail is surrounded by at least three sides. That is, the additional rails would add significantly to the size of the device making it impossible to operate the device by applying the required pressure to each finger guide without distortion. Therefore, one skilled in the art would not contemplate adding multiple rails to Helot.

Further, the combination of Helot and Butler would not teach the presently claimed invention because Helot requires that a force be applied before the finger guide 10 can move in the forward direction to allow the finger tip to be scanned. Butler’s use of pins 26 and 46/62 will not permit the required pressure of Helot to be applied to each finger guide 10, thereby preventing scanning of each finger tip and the palm. Therefore, the combination of Helot and Butler would not be contemplated by one skilled in the art.

Independent Claim 1 includes “a base to which each of the multiple rails is movably attached, the base including at least one window for viewing a surface pattern on the object” and

is patently distinct from Helot and Butler. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of independent Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103.


Dependent Claims 2-13 depend from respective base Claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 2-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 9/20/05